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Letter dated 7 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the observations of the Government of Rwanda on the statement issued on 5 June 2002 by the President of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/PRST/2002/19) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Observations of the Government of Rwanda on the statement issued on 5 June 2002 by the President of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Presidential statement addresses three unrelated issues in a manner that gives the impression that the Security Council was not properly briefed on them. These are:

1. The "events" of 14 May 2002 in the city of Kisangani and their aftermath;
2. The "ban" by the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-Goma (RCD-Goma) of the United Nations Special Representative to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Amos Ngongi;
3. The "expulsion" of two MONUC personnel from the RCD-Goma controlled area.

The Government of Rwanda wishes to share with the Security Council the following:

1. On the morning of 14 May 2002, a group of former Mobutu soldiers (EX-FAZ) integrated in the RCD Army mutinied, took over the National Radio in Kisangani and made the following two announcements:

   - They said that they had taken the city and given it over to the Government of Kinshasa, which was shortly sending planes loaded with reinforcements.
   - They called on the population of Kisangani to take up all arms they had (machetes, clubs, stones, etc.) and kill every person who looked like a Rwandese. The population responded en masse, notably those living in the Commune of Mangobo, and killed some Banyarwanda and Hema.

   Forces loyal to RCD-Goma intervened and stopped the mutiny.

   While the Government of Rwanda understands the Security Council's condemnation of the excessive force that may have been used by the RCD-Goma forces to crush the mutiny, it was shocked by the fact that the Presidential statement is silent about the call for genocide made by the mutineers and their attempt to hand over the city of Kisangani to President Kabila. Should we interpret this to mean that the killing of Rwandans in the region is a non-event or that it is normal for the Government of Kinshasa to attempt to take over Kisangani even when there is a ceasefire?

   The Government of Rwanda wishes to remind the Security Council that the RCD has called on the United Nations to set up an independent commission of inquiry (which does not include MONUC because its role

also needs to be clarified) into the events of 14 May in Kisangani, but to this day nothing has been done.

2. Concerning the call made by the RCD-Goma to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to withdraw his Special Representative, the Government of Rwanda wishes to inform the Security Council that this was a result of a report made by Mr. Ngongi to the United Nations in which he stated that, in his view, RCD-Goma had disintegrated and was no longer a factor in the Congolese equation. He even wondered if he should continue to have dealings with RCD-Goma. In reaction to this, RCD-Goma decided to relieve him of his dilemma by informing the Secretary-General that it would no longer deal with Mr. Ngongi and that for the good of MONUC it would be better if he was replaced.

3. The expulsion of the two MONUC personnel from the area controlled by RCD-Goma has to do with the throwing of a grenade during a mass procession in Goma on 24 March 2002 which resulted in the death of a priest and a girl and many injuries. RCD-Goma has recently arrested the culprit, who revealed that he did it for the benefit of the Kinshasa Government and accused the two employees of MONUC of having served as a channel of communication between him and Kinshasa. He said that they were facilitating activities of various negative forces operating in the RCD-Goma controlled area.

   While the Government of Rwanda understands that it is the duty of the Security Council to defend the staff of MONUC, it does not think that these destabilization activities resulting in the death of innocent people were part of their stated mission.

The Government of Rwanda believes that, in drafting this Presidential statement, not all available information was used and therefore the Security Council was not properly informed.

Finally, the Government of Rwanda wishes to inform the Security Council that it has heeded the call on it to exert its influence to have RCD-Goma meet all its obligations under the resolutions of the Security Council and promises that it will spare no effort to achieve a just and durable peace in the Great Lakes region. However, the same call should be made on all allies to the Congolese parties involved in the crisis.

For the Government of Rwanda

Patrick **Mazimhaka**
Presidential Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region